



UNITED STATES ARMY THE CHIEF OF STAFF


I am honored to lead an organization of 1.1 million Soldiers—Active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard—dedicated to defending our Constitution, our citizens and our way of life. Today's Army is a professional, resilient, combat-seasoned force ready to meet and defeat the challenges facing our Nation in the 21st Century. Leading from the front are our noncommissioned officers—the glue that is holding our force together in this era of persistent conflict. In recognition of their leadership, the Army has designated 2009 as the “Year of the Army NCO.”

People are the heart and soul of our Army. After seven years of war—the longest war ever fought by an All-Volunteer Force—our Army is stretched and stressed by repeated deployments. We are out of balance and face a few tough years ahead as we work to get back in balance through a plan centered on four imperatives:

- **Sustain our All-Volunteer Force.** With Congressional support, we are growing our force over the next two years and providing a quality of life commensurate with our Soldiers' service to the Nation. Committed to our wounded, ill and injured Warriors, we provide world-class inpatient care and are improving our outpatient care and disability system.
- **Prepare for the Current Conflict.** We are unflinching in our efforts to train and equip Soldiers to succeed in combat today.
- **Reset our People and Equipment.** We must rebuild readiness consumed in operations by repairing, replacing and recapitalizing our equipment, and by revitalizing Soldiers and Families after deployments.
- **Transform our Force for the 21st Century.** Our Army is transforming to a modular-based, Future Combat Systems-enabled force—a force that is versatile, expeditionary, agile, lethal, sustainable and interoperable.

The United States has long been a beacon of hope for people—and today's Soldiers, as daily ambassadors in over 80 countries, represent—and fight for—ideals affirming life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In this time of war, the Army continues to recruit and retain quality Soldiers—and Families—who reflect the commitment and diversity of the American people—a testament to our Army, our citizens, and our Nation.

Army Strong!


George W. Casey, Jr.
General, United States Army